

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 24 as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing programming, the method comprising:

transmitting a first set of programs in real time according to a schedule of programming;

storing a second set of programs on a server, each of which is configured to be played for a user under the user's control and at least one of the first set of programs having a counterpart in the second set of programs, wherein the counterpart in the second set of programs is substantially identical to the at least one of the first set of programs; and

transmitting a notification signal to distinguish at least one of the second set of programs on the server from programs not on the server.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein transmitting the notification signal to distinguish at least one of the second set of programs on the server comprises:

identifying when the user has tuned to a particular program according to the schedule of programming, the particular program having a counterpart program on the server; and

superimposing a notification symbol on the particular program.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the notification symbol is an icon.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the notification symbol is an alphanumeric string.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein transmitting the notification signal to distinguish at least one of the second set of programs on the server comprises:

detecting a user request for descriptive information regarding a particular program being transmitted according to the schedule of programming;

transmitting descriptive information regarding the particular program;

determining whether the particular program has a counterpart stored on the server;

and

superimposing a notification symbol on the descriptive information if it is determined that the particular program has a counterpart stored on the server.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein detecting the user request for descriptive information regarding the particular program comprises receiving a wireless request from a remote control.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein the notification symbol is an icon.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein the notification symbol is an alphanumeric string.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein transmitting the notification signal to distinguish at least one of the second set of programs on the server comprises:

detecting a user request for a menu of programs;

transmitting the menu of programs in accordance with the user request;

determining which programs within the menu have a counterpart stored on the server;

superimposing at least one notification symbol on the menu to denote each such program having a counterpart stored on the server.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein each notification symbol is an icon.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein each notification symbol is an alphanumeric string.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein the menu comprises a description of the schedule of programming.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein the menu consists of a list of the second set of programs.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein transmitting the notification signal to distinguish at least one of the second set of programs on the server comprises:

detecting a user request for a display of the schedule of programming;
transmitting a display of the schedule of programming in accordance with the user request;

determining which programs within the schedule of programming have a counterpart stored on the server; and

superimposing at least one notification symbol on the display of the schedule of programming to denote each such program having a counterpart stored on the server.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein each notification symbol is an icon.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein each notification symbol is an alphanumeric string.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
transmitting a menu of programs from which the user can select a particular program to be played under the control of the user;
verifying the user's authorization to access programs from the server.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17 wherein verifying the user's authorization to access programs from the server is performed after transmitting the menu of programs and wherein the menu of programs identifies only programs stored on the server.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the server is located remotely from the user.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the server is located on a set-top box local to the user.

21. (Original) A method for notifying a user of programming, the method comprising:
providing a system to transmit a set of programs to a user according to a schedule of programming, at least some of which are configured also to be available under the control of the user; and
transmitting a notification symbol within the system to distinguish between those programs configured to be available under the control the user and those that are not configured to be available under the control the user.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21 wherein the notification symbol is an icon.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 21 wherein the notification symbol is an alphanumeric string.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing programming, the method comprising:

transmitting a first set of programs according to a schedule of programming;
storing a second set of the set of programs on a server, each of which is configured to be played for a user under the user's control;

identifying when the user has tuned to a particular program according to the schedule of programming, the particular program having a counterpart program on the server that is substantially identical to the particular program; and

superimposing a notification symbol on the particular program.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 24 further comprising:
detecting a user request for descriptive information regarding the particular program;

transmitting descriptive information regarding the particular program, such descriptive information including the notification symbol.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein detecting the user request for descriptive information comprises receiving a wireless request from a remote control.